



Island Heights Office Of Emergency Management

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In this issue...

- 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Forecast
- Family Emergency Operations Plan
- What resources are available to you
- What can you do to prepare
- Evacuation Instructions

2021 Hurricane Season Forecast

According to representatives from the National Hurricane Center and NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration), Forecasters predict a 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season. However, experts do not anticipate the historic level of storm activity seen in 2020. For 2021, a likely range of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 5 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher) is expected. NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence. The Atlantic hurricane season extends from June 1 through November 30. All residents should heed storm and hurricane warnings and have their emergency supplies kit available.

Hurricane categories are:

- Category 1 (Sustained winds 74-95 mph)
- Category 2 (Sustained winds 96-110 mph)
- Category 3 (Sustained winds 111-130 mph)
- Category 4 (Sustained winds 131-154 mph)
- Category 5 (Sustained winds greater than 155 mph)

A "hurricane watch" is issued whenever a hurricane becomes a threat to coastal areas. Everyone in the area covered by the "watch" should listen for further advisories and be prepared to act promptly if a hurricane warning or evacuation order is issued.

"A "hurricane warning" is issued when hurricane winds of seventy-four miles an hour or higher, or a combination of dangerously high water and very rough seas, are expected in a specific coastal area within twenty-four hours. Precautionary actions should begin immediately.

A Nor'easter is a storm along the East Coast of North America, so called because the winds over the coastal area are typically from the northeast. These storms may occur at any time of year but are most frequent and most violent between September and April. Nor'easters usually develop in the latitudes between Georgia and New Jersey, within 100 miles east or west of the East Coast. These storms progress generally northeastward. They nearly always bring precipitation in the form of heavy rain or snow, as well as winds of gale force, rough seas, and, occasionally, coastal flooding to the affected regions.

For more information, please go to:

<https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-predicts-another-active-atlantic-hurricane-season>

Family Emergency Operations Plan

Does your family have an Emergency Operations Plan? If not, you should. Don't wait until an emergency or disaster strikes before you develop your plan. You really need to identify what type of hazards and potential risks your area faces, what you will take with you if you are asked to evacuate, what you will do with your pets and livestock, where you will go if you are asked to evacuate, etc.

Island Heights CodeRed, local radio stations and cable TV stations will provide information regarding shelter locations, evacuations routes and other pertinent information.



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What resources are available to you:

Island Heights offers several resources to residents to plan for, respond to and recover from major storms. These include:

- CodeRed emergency notification system. Sign up using the sign-up form on the Borough website
- Notify Island Heights Police if you or someone you know has special needs that may require extra help in case of emergency
- Island Heights Public Works can provide supplies to make sandbags
- Island Heights OEM can provide assistance with emergency planning

What can you do to prepare?

Residents can take several steps to prepare for, and respond to Nor'easters, major storms and hurricanes.

Ahead of the storm season:

- Have a family emergency plan
- Monitor weather forecasts and listen for public information announcements
- Sign up for Island Heights CodeRed notification service
- Make sure there are no dead or dangerously leaning trees near your home
- Routinely run your emergency generator if you have one. Keep adequate, fresh fuel on hand.

When bad weather is approaching or here:

- Keep cellphones and laptops charged
- Secure all outdoor furniture and other loose items
- Move vehicles from low lying, flood-prone areas
- Have an emergency supplies kit available. Have enough food, water and medications on hand to last for several days if conditions require in-place sheltering
- Fill your vehicle with fuel
- Do not try to drive through standing water, it is often deeper than you think
- Follow instructions of emergency personnel
- Stay away from downed wires

If you are told to EVACUATE, where will you go and what should you bring?

In the event that an evacuation is ordered, the Island Heights OEM will coordinate with the Police, Fire and First Aid Departments to notify all residents. Residents will be advised to take emergency supplies with them, secure their home and leave as quickly as possible. Evacuation routes will be established by the Police Department.

Island Heights OEM will assist anyone who is mobility impaired, vision impaired or hearing impaired to evacuate. If you or someone you know may need this assistance, you should advise the Island Heights OEM in advance.

If you are ordered to evacuate, you should bring with you:

- Prescription medicines and medical information for each person.
- Non-prescription drugs (aspirin, antacids, etc.)
- Two day supply of bottled water for each person
- Two day supply of ready to eat foods for each person
- Baby supplies (formula, diapers, medications)
- Sanitary supplies (toilet paper, disinfectant, etc.)
- Several days supply of clothing for each person
- Any special dietary needs
- Telephone numbers of doctors, pharmacists, friends and relatives
- Flashlights and portable radio, spare batteries
- Pets and pet supplies
- First Aid Kit
- Cash or Travelers Checks
- Maps of the area
- Identification (Driver's license, etc.)
- Cell Phone and chargers (Car and AC)

If you are sent to a shelter, you will be provided with meals, sleeping facilities, rest room facilities and, in some cases, arrangements for pets. Pet owners need to advise Shelter Managers if they have their pet(s) with them.